

(b) *Claims involving workmen's compensation carriers.* The settlement of a claim involving a claimant who has elected to receive workmen's compensation benefits under local law may require the consent of the workmen's compensation carrier and in certain jurisdictions the State agency with authority over workmen's compensation awards. Accordingly, claims approval and settlement authorities should be aware of local requirements.

§ 536.11 Appeals and notification to claimant as to denial of claims.

(a) *General.* The nature and extent of the written notification to the claimant as to the denial of his claim should be based on whether the claimant has a judicial remedy following denial or whether he has an administrative recourse to appeal.

(b) *Final Actions under the Federal Tort Claims Act (28 U.S.C. 2671-2680) § 536.50.* If the settlement authority has information available which could possibly be a persuasive factor in the decision of the claimant as to whether to resort to litigation, such information may be orally transmitted to the claimant and, in appropriate cases, released under normal procedures in accordance with AR 340-17. However, the written notification of the denial should be general in nature; for example, denial on the weaker ground of contributory negligence should be avoided, and the inclination should be to deny on the basis that the claimant was solely responsible for the incident. The claimant will be informed in writing of his right to bring an action in the appropriate United States District Court not later than 6 months after the date of mailing of the notification.

(c) *Denials under the MCA (10 U.S.C. 2733) §§ 536.20 through 536.35 and the NGCA (32 U.S.C. 715) §§ 536.70 through 536.81.* Claims disapproved under these statutes are subject to appeal and the claimant will be so informed. Also, the notice of disapproval will be sufficiently detailed to provide the claimant with an opportunity to know and attempt to overcome the basis for the disapproval. The claimant should not be afforded a valid basis for claiming surprise when an issue adverse to him

is asserted as a basis for denying his appeal.

(d) *Denials on jurisdictional grounds.* Regardless of the nature of the claim presented or the statute under which it may be considered, claims denied on jurisdictional grounds which are valid, certain, and not easily overcome and in which for this reason no detailed investigation as to the merits of the claim is conducted, should contain in the denial letter a general statement to the effect that the denial on such grounds is not to be construed as an expression of opinion on the merits of the claim or an admission of liability. If sufficient factual information is available to make a tentative ruling on the merits of the claim, liability may be expressly denied.

(e) *Where claim may be considered under more than one statute.* In cases in which it is doubtful as to whether the MCA (§§ 536.20 through 536.35) or the NGCA (§§ 536.70 through 536.81) or the FTCA (§ 536.50) is the appropriate statute under which to consider the claim, the claimant will be advised of the alternatives, for example, the right to sue or the right to appeal. Similarly, a claimant may be advised of his alternative remedies when the claimant is a military member and the issue of "incident to service" is not clear.

§ 536.12 Effect of payment.

Acceptance of an award by the claimant, except for an advance payment, constitutes for the United States, and for the military member or civilian employee whose act or omission gave rise to the claim, a release from all liability to the claimant based on the act or omission.

§ 536.13 Advance payments.

(a) *Purpose.* This section implements the Act of 8 September 1961 (75 Stat. 488, 10 U.S.C. 2736), as amended by Public Law 90-521 (82 Stat. 874), Public Law 98-564 (98 Stat. 2918) and Public Law 100-456. No new liability is created by 10 U.S.C. 2736, which merely permits partial advance payments on meritorious claims as specified in this section.

(b) *Conditions for advance payment.* An advance payment not in excess of \$100,000 is authorized in the limited

category of claims resulting in immediate hardship arising from incidents that are payable under the provisions of §§ 536.20 through 536.35, 536.70 through 536.81, or the FCA (10 U.S.C. 2734). An advance payment is authorized only under the following circumstances:

(1) The claim must be determined to be cognizable and meritorious under the provisions of either §§ 536.20 through 536.35, and 536.70 through 536.81, or the FCA (10 U.S.C. 2734).

(2) There exists an immediate need of the person who suffered the injury, damage, or loss, or of the family of a person who was killed, for food, clothing, shelter, medical or burial expenses, or other necessities, and other resources for such expenses are not reasonably available.

(3) The payee, so far as can be determined, would be a proper claimant, as is the spouse or next of kin of a claimant who is incapacitated.

(4) The total damage sustained must exceed the amount of the advance payment.

(5) A properly executed advance payment acceptance agreement has been obtained.

Subpart B—Claims Arising From Activities of Military or Civilian Personnel or Incident to Non-combat Activities

§ 536.20 Statutory authority.

The statutory authority for §§ 536.20 through 536.35 is contained in the Act of 10 August 1956 (70A Stat. 153, 10 U.S.C. 2733) commonly referred to as the Military Claims Act (MCA), as amended by Public Law 90-522, 26 September 1968 (82 Stat. 875), Public Law 90-525, 26 September 1968 (82 Stat. 877), Public Law 91-312, 8 July 1970 (84 Stat. 412) and Public Law 93-336, 8 July 1974 (88 Stat. 291); and the Act of 8 September 1961 (75 Stat. 488, 10 U.S.C. 2736), as amended by Public Law 90-521, 26 September 1968 (82 Stat. 874) and Public Law 98-564, 30 October 1984 (98 Stat. 2918).

§ 536.21 Definitions.

The definitions of terms set forth in § 536.3 are applicable to §§ 536.20 through 536.35.

§ 536.22 Scope.

Sections 536.20 through 536.35 are applicable in all places and prescribe the substantive bases and special procedural requirements for the settlement of claims against the United States for death, personal injury, or damage to or loss or destruction of property caused by military personnel or civilian employees of the DA acting within the scope of their employment, or otherwise incident to the noncombat activities of the DA, provided such claim is not for personal injury or death of a member of the Armed Forces or Coast Guard or a civilian officer or employee whose injury or death is incident to service.

§ 536.23 Claims payable.

(a) *General.* Unless otherwise prescribed, a claim for personal injury, death, or damage to or loss of real or personal property is payable under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 when—

(1) Caused by an act or omission determined to be negligent, wrongful, or otherwise involving fault of military personnel or civilian officers or employees of the Army acting within the scope of their employment, or

(2) Incident to the noncombat activities of the Army.

(b) *Property.* The loss or damage to property which may be the subject of claims under §§ 536.20 through 536.35 includes—

(1) Real property used and occupied under a lease, express or implied, or otherwise (for example, in connection with training, field exercises, or maneuvers). An allowance may be made for the use and occupancy of real property arising out of trespass or other tort, even though claimed as rent.

(2) Personal property bailed to the Government under an agreement, express or implied, unless the owner has expressly assumed the risk of damage or loss. Some losses may be payable using Operations and Maintenance, Army funds. Clothing damage or loss